

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to the first Official Action and prior to calculating the fees for the application.

The present application is a Divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/094,888.

Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 13-20.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to deposit account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 

Nickolas E. Westman, Reg.No. 20,147
Suite 1600 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

NEW/djb

MARKED-UP VERSION OF REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPHS

The following paragraph is added on Page 1, immediately after the title:

This application is a Divisional of United States Patent Application No. 09/094,888, filed June 15, 1998 and claims the benefit of priority of that application.

Replacement paragraph for the paragraph beginning at Page 2, Line 15 and ending at Page 2, line 25:

This invention is primarily aimed at reducing and preventing shear trauma from many repetitions of short duration skin loadings, but eliminating shear tractions even in low repetition, long-duration loadings is of value. Research shows that even capillary blood flow is affected strongly by whether or not shear stresses are superimposed on normal pressures. When high shear stresses are present, capillary blood flow has been shown to be occluded at normal pressures only half as great as what are required to occlude flow in the absence of shear stresses and strains.

Replacement paragraph for the paragraph beginning at Page 4, Line 4 and ending at Page 4, Line 12:

Synthetic gel socket liners are available, and these are generally in the range of 1/8 inch to 5/16 inch thick. The liner cover tends to stick to the skin and other materials in contact with it, so that it does not act as a friction reducer, but does provide cushioning and accommodates small amplitude shear motions without much resistance. The effectiveness of a gel liner is dependent on its thickness, and as it becomes thicker, its weight and bulk are deterrents.

Replacement paragraph for the paragraph beginning at Page

5, Line 22 and ending at Page 5, line 29:

Preferably, the low friction layer is a thin film material ~~having the surface friction characteristics made~~ of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE). The PTFE layer is preferably bonded to a fabric layer of a somewhat elastic, flexible material such as Lycra or a Lycra blend. The exposed side of the fabric is covered with a pressure adhesive and a release paper is on top of the adhesive.